EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with TJ

Singh on April 14, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 29 – 39 has been cancelled.

For claim 40 line 4, a period has been inserted at the end of the sentence.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For claims 5 and 11, the Prior Art of record fails to show or render obvious an inbound IP

fragment processing state machine for processing and reassembling IP packet fragments into

an IP datagram that is stored in a local memory for the hardware engine; wherein the inbound

IP fragment processing state machine assigns a timer to each IP datagram with a timeout

value, and if a timeout occurs then the entire datagram is removed from a reassembly list and

storage space associated with the timed out datagram is assigned to a free buffer list that is

maintained by a buffer list manager, where the buffer list manager implements a hardware

state machine to manage storage space in the local memory and grants free buffer space when available to the inbound IP verifier hardware state machine in combinations set forth in the respective claims.

For claim 24, the Prior Art of record fails to show or render obvious an input processing module that determine if a TCP connection is established and checks for TCP flags to determine if a TCP data packet should be processed; wherein the input processing module obtains a network control block from a TCP table manager for a valid TCP data packet; and the TCP table manager maintains timer functions for all TCP connections at any given time in the hardware engine and maintains a linked list of network control blocks for processing network data sent by the hardware engine and received by the hardware engine in combinations set forth in the respective claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GARY MUI whose telephone number is (571)270-1420. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs. 9 - 3 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ricky Ngo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
2616

/Gary Mui/
Examiner, Art Unit 2616
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